

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STOCKH 00980 071157Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----071516Z 054578 /42  
R 071110Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9960

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 980

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SW  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER TO US

1. OUR FRIENDS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE RAISED WITH US SEVERAL TIMES THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO AN INVITATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON. SINCE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT SWEDISH AMBASSADOR WATCHTMEISTER WILL RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THE SECRETARY WHEN HE MEETS WITH HIM MARCH 11, WE THOUGHT IT TIMELY TO REPEAT SOME OF THE POINTS MADE TO US.

2. FIRST AND FOREMOST IS THE DESIRE OF THE NEW NON-SOCIALIST SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO SHOW ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US. SINCE FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER VISITED SWEDEN IN MAY 1976, THE OBVIOUS WAY TO EXEMPLIFY IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE SWEDISH ELECTIONS IS FOR A HIGH-RANKING GOS OFFICIAL TO BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON. WITH PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN SHOWING LITTLE INTEREST SO FAR IN FOREIGN TRAVEL, THE PRIME CANDIDATE IN SWEDISH EYES IS MRS. SODER.

3. FRIENDS OF THE US INSIDE THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT SEE AN INVITATION AS HELPING THE FALLDIN ADMINISTRATION DIFFERENTIATE ITSELF FROM PALME'S FOREIGN POLICY. MRS. SODER'S "EUROPEAN SPEECH" OF LAST WEEK (STOCKHOLM 866)  
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WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THIS DIRECTION, BUT SOME EVIDENCE OF HEIGHTENED US REGARD FOR THE NEW NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IS PLAINLY DESIRABLE. OUR FRIENDS ALSO WITH TO BE SURE THAT IN THE TRADITIONAL SWEDISH BALANCING ACT BETWEEN THE SUPER-POWERS, SWEDEN'S FUNDAMENTAL IDENTITY WITH THE WEST IS KEPT EVIDENT. THEY SAY THAT VISITS IN THIS RESPECT ARE IMPORTANT, AND WE ASSUME THAT

AN INVITATION TO VISIT MOSCOW IS ALREADY BEING WORKED INTO MRS. SODER'S SCHEDULE (THE GDR COUNSELOR TOLD US MARCH 3 THAT A VISIT TO THE GDR WAS PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER).

4. GETTING DOWN TO DOMESTIC POLITICS, OUR CONTACTS NOTE THAT SINCE THE FIRST SWEDISH MINISTERIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL BE BY FINANCE MINISTER BOHMAN IN APRIL, A MODERATE PARTY MAN, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A VISIT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE BY MRS. SODER OF THE DOMINANT CENTER PARTY.

5. COMMENT. OUR CONTACTS ARE MAKING THESE POINTS IN A LOW AND POLITE VOICE, FOR THEY REALIZE THE CRUSHING SCHEDULING PROBLEMS BEING ENCOUNTERED BY THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION. STILL, CONSIDERING THE NADIR REACHED BY US-SWEDISH RELATIONS ONLY A FEW YEARS BACK, THEY ARE EAGER TO MOVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO CEMENT OUR PRESENT GOOD RELATIONS AND MOVE FORWARD. AN INVITATION TO MRS. SODER, WE GATHER, WOULD BE A MOST HELPFUL US GESTURE AT THIS STAGE. THE EMBASSY CONCURS IN THIS VIEW.

PERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, SW, US, (SODER, KARIN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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